

1977

# Bartram's Ixia

Robert Morgan

Follow this and additional works at: <https://ir.uiowa.edu/iowareview>

Part of the [Creative Writing Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Morgan, Robert. "Bartram's Ixia." *The Iowa Review* 8.1 (1977): 44-44. Web.  
Available at: <https://doi.org/10.17077/0021-065X.2152>

This Contents is brought to you for free and open access by Iowa Research Online. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Iowa Review by an authorized administrator of Iowa Research Online. For more information, please contact [lib-ir@uiowa.edu](mailto:lib-ir@uiowa.edu).

## Bartram's Ixia / Robert Morgan

To find in the deep  
swampglow a blue  
light near the ground  
between pools of stagnant  
ink, bright  
as a fly tied with lasers,  
a kind of antilight  
lost for nearly two centuries  
revealing itself a few  
inches out of mud.  
The color takes root  
in the retina and  
drains into recognition—  
as the ground will in  
a few days draw  
this special candlepower  
back down the stem.

## Canning Time / Robert Morgan

The floor was muddy with the juice of peaches  
and my mother's thumb, bandaged for the slicing,  
watersobbed. She and Aunt Wessie skinned  
bushels that day, fat Georgia Belles  
slit streaming into the pot. Their knives  
paid out limp bands onto the heap  
of parings. It took care to pack the jars,  
reaching in to stack the halves  
firm without bruising, and lowering  
the heavy racks into the boiler already  
trembling with steam, the stove malignant  
in heat. As Wessie wiped her face  
the kitchen sweated its sweet filth.  
In that hell they sealed the quickly browning  
flesh in capsules of honey, making crystals